

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2039

To require an assessment of the plans for the modernization and sustainment of the land-based, Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile strategic deterrent force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNETT) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require an assessment of the plans for the modernization and sustainment of the land-based, Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile strategic deterrent force, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strategic Deterrent
5 Sustainment Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The strategic forces of the United States re-
2 main a cornerstone of United States national secu-
3 rity.

4 (2) The 2001 Nuclear Posture Review states
5 that it is the current policy of the United States that
6 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), sub-
7 marine-launched ballistic missiles, and long-range
8 nuclear-armed bombers play a critical role in the de-
9 fense capabilities of the United States, its allies, and
10 friends.

11 (3) The dispersed and alert Minuteman III
12 intercontinental ballistic missile system provides the
13 most responsive, stabilizing, and cost-effective stra-
14 tegic force.

15 (4) Section 139 of the John Warner National
16 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007
17 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2114) requires the
18 Secretary of the Air Force to modernize Minuteman
19 III intercontinental ballistic missiles in the United
20 States inventory so as to maintain a sufficient sup-
21 ply of launch test assets and spares to sustain the
22 deployed force of such missiles through 2030.

23 (5) The modernization program for the Minute-
24 man III intercontinental ballistic missile is nearing
25 completion. Once that program is complete, there

1 will be no program to sustain the capability of the
2 United States industrial base to modernize or re-
3 place the intercontinental ballistic missiles that con-
4 stitute the sole land-based strategic deterrent system
5 of the United States.

6 (6) As an example, motor production for the
7 Minuteman III Propulsion Replacement Program
8 (PRP) is currently scheduled to end in fiscal year
9 2009. Once the PRP program ends, the capacity of
10 the United States industrial base to respond to mat-
11 ters arising from the aging and obsolescence of Min-
12 uteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles will be
13 extremely diminished, decades-worth of critical pro-
14 gram knowledge may be lost, and the current design
15 of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic mis-
16 sile is likely to no longer be reproducible.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON CAPABILITIES FOR SUSTAINMENT OF**
18 **THE MINUTEMAN III INTERCONTINENTAL**
19 **BALLISTIC MISSILE.**

20 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1,
21 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-
22 gressional defense committees a report on the capability
23 of the United States industrial base to achieve each of the
24 following:

1 (1) To maintain, modernize, and sustain the
2 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile
3 (ICBM) system until at least 2030.

4 (2) To replace the Minuteman III interconti-
5 nental ballistic missile with a follow-on land-based
6 strategic deterrent system after 2030.

7 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph
8 (1) shall include the following:

9 (1) A description of any current plans for ex-
10 tending the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic
11 missile system after the period from 2020 to 2030,
12 including plans for testing sufficient to account for
13 any aging and obsolescence found in the Minuteman
14 III intercontinental ballistic missile during the re-
15 maining life of the system, and an assessment of the
16 risks associated with such plans after the shutdown
17 of associated production lines.

18 (2) A description of any current plans to main-
19 tain the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic
20 missile system after 2030, including an assessment
21 of any risks associated with such plans after the
22 shutdown of associated production lines.

23 (3) An explanation why the Minuteman III
24 intercontinental ballistic missile system, the only
25 United States land-based strategic deterrent system,

1 is no longer considered to be of the highest national
2 defense urgency, as indicated by inclusion of the sys-
3 tem on the so-called “DX-Rated Program List”
4 while the sea-based strategic deterrent system, the
5 Trident II D5 missile system, is still on the so-called
6 “DX-list”.

7 (4) An analysis of existing commonalities be-
8 tween the service life extension program for the Tri-
9 dent II D5 missile system and any equivalent
10 planned service life extension program for the Min-
11 uteman III intercontinental ballistic missile system,
12 including an analysis of the impact on materials, the
13 supplier base, production facilities, and the produc-
14 tion workforce of extending all or part of the service
15 life extension program for the Trident II D5 missile
16 system to a service life extension program for the
17 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile sys-
18 tem.

19 (5) An assessment of the adequacy of current
20 and anticipated programs, such as missile defense,
21 space launch, and prompt global strike programs, to
22 support the industrial base for the Minuteman III
23 intercontinental ballistic missile system, including an
24 analysis of the impact on materials, the supplier
25 base, production facilities, and the production work-

1 force of extending all or part of any such program
2 to the program for the Minuteman III interconti-
3 nental ballistic missile system.

4 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later
5 than 60 days after submittal under subsection (a) of the
6 report required by that subsection, the Comptroller Gen-
7 eral of the United States shall submit to the congressional
8 defense committees a report setting forth the Comptroller
9 General’s assessment of the matters contained in the re-
10 port under subsection (a), including an assessment of the
11 consistency of the budget of the President for fiscal year
12 2009, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105
13 of title 31, United States Code, with the matters contained
14 in the report under subsection (a).

15 (d) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
16 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense
17 committees” means—

- 18 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
19 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
20 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
21 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives.

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